

# MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(19)

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**TO:** Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

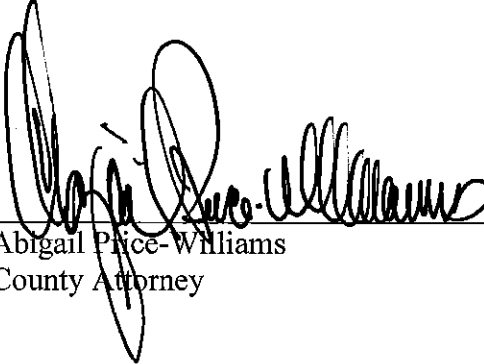
**DATE:** September 7, 2016

**FROM:** Abigail Price-Williams  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Resolution urging the United  
States Congress and the Florida  
Legislature to fund Everglades  
restoration and pass legislation in  
support of Everglades restoration

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The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Rebeca Sosa.



Abigail Price-Williams  
County Attorney

APW/cp



# MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No. 11(A)(19)

Please note any items checked.

- ☐ "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- ☐ 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- ☐ 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- ☐ Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- ☐ Budget required
- ☐ Statement of fiscal impact required
- ☐ Statement of social equity required
- ☐ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing
- ☒ No committee review
- ☐ Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's \_\_\_\_, 3/5's \_\_\_\_, unanimous \_\_\_\_ ) to approve
- ☐ Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor  
Veto \_\_\_\_\_  
Override \_\_\_\_\_

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(19)  
9-7-16

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS  
AND THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO FUND  
EVERGLADES RESTORATION AND PASS LEGISLATION IN  
SUPPORT OF EVERGLADES RESTORATION

**WHEREAS**, Florida is considered one of the most vulnerable areas in the country with respect to the consequences of climate change, with Southeast Florida on the frontline to experience the impacts of climate change, especially sea level rise, due to its low-lying topography, porous substrata, and extensive coastal infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, Miami-Dade County has been in the forefront of these issues for many years and gives significant consideration to adaptation strategies designed to protect public infrastructure, property, water resources, natural areas and native species, and basic quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2013, this Board created the Miami-Dade Sea Level Rise Task Force through the adoption of Resolution No. R-599-13 to review the relevant data and prior studies, assessments, reports, and evaluations of the potential impact of sea level rise on vital public services and facilities, real estate, water and other ecological resources, water front property, and infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2014, the Miami-Dade Sea Level Rise Task Force identified Everglades restoration as an area of immediate concern, as wise land use planning and incorporation of the benefits received from natural systems like the Everglades must be an essential part of a resilience strategy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Everglades is the largest and most important freshwater, subtropical peat wetland in North America; and

**WHEREAS**, historically, the Everglades covered approximately 2.5 million acres of land from the south shore of Lake Okeechobee to the mangrove estuaries of Florida Bay; and

**WHEREAS**, today, the Everglades comprises more than 900,000 acres in Water Conservation Areas and more than 1.5 million acres in Everglades National Park; and

**WHEREAS**, the Everglades is the primary source of drinking water for more than 7 million Americans—more than a third of Florida’s population—and a cornerstone of the regional economy, supporting the state’s estimated \$67 billion tourism industry, \$13 billion outdoor recreation economy, and \$100 billion agriculture sector; and

**WHEREAS**, over the past 100 years, population growth, development, excessive drainage of wetlands, and resulting changes in water flow and water quality have caused great stress to the Everglades’ fragile ecosystem; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition, agricultural and storm-water runoff has degraded water quality in the Everglades; and

**WHEREAS**, an average of 1.7 billion gallons of water per day are lost from the Everglades through discharge to the ocean; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 1 million acres of the Everglades ecosystem are under health advisories for mercury contamination; and

**WHEREAS**, over 1 million acres of the Everglades are infested with invasive exotic plants; and

**WHEREAS**, preserving and restoring the Everglades is crucial to restoring hydrology and surface water levels, which can help reduce the threat of salt water intrusion; and

**WHEREAS**, Everglades restoration would restore natural flows of water, water quality, and seasonal patterns of water levels, and such restoration will ensure a reliable, adequate supply of freshwater; and

**WHEREAS**, better water quality will support agriculture, tourism, municipal and county water supplies, recreation, and wildlife; and

**WHEREAS**, recent economic studies estimate that every dollar spent on Everglades restoration has the potential to yield four dollars in economic benefits for the South Florida economy; and

**WHEREAS**, restoration projects will generate jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, state and federal funding is needed to protect and restore the Everglades; and

**WHEREAS**, the Miami-Dade Sea Level Rise Task Force made the recommendation that this Board make Everglades restoration a legislative priority; and

**WHEREAS**, consistent with that recommendation, this Board has adopted resolutions supporting specific projects that would benefit the Everglades and surrounding areas that affect the Everglades, and this Board has previously adopted resolutions in support of Everglades restoration in general; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board wishes to express its support for additional funding and projects to protect and restore the Everglades,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,** that this Board hereby:

**Section 1.** Urges the United States Congress to fund Everglades restoration and to pass legislation in support of Everglades restoration.

**Section 2.** Urges the Florida Legislature to fund Everglades restoration and to pass legislation in support of Everglades restoration.

**Section 3.** Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the Members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, the Governor, the Senate President, the House Speaker, and to the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation.

**Section 4.** Directs the County's Federal and State lobbyists to advocate for legislation described in Section 1 and 2 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2017 State and Federal Legislative Packages when they are presented to this Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Rebeca Sosa. It was offered by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Jean Monestime, Chairman	
Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., Vice Chairman	
Bruno A. Barreiro	Daniella Levine Cava
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	Audrey M. Edmonson
Sally A. Heyman	Barbara J. Jordan
Dennis C. Moss	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	Xavier L. Suarez
Juan C. Zapata	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 7<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2016. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this Resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BY ITS BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency.



Abbie Schwaderer-Raurell